



*The UN Timor-Leste News Bulletin captures a summary of the most important news of United Nations agencies this quarter. For more details on these and other stories from UN agencies, please follow the links at the end of the Bulletin.*

*We acknowledge the invaluable contributions and support provided by all our partners, donors, the Government of Timor-Leste, and civil society.*



*The United Nations is fully committed to supporting the Government of Timor-Leste in coordinating a national emergency response to the worst flash flooding the country has seen in living memory.*

**- ROY TRIVEDY**  
UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT  
COORDINATOR, TIMOR-LESTE



**The United Nations is fully committed to supporting the Government of Timor-Leste in coordinating a national emergency response to the worst flash flooding the country for many years.**

Thousands of people have been affected by the devastating floods and landslides. This comes in the middle of a COVID19 pandemic also gripping the country all this leading to suffering, loss of lives, and livelihoods. The floods have compounded this situation.

I applaud our frontline heroes and heroines who are responding bravely to COVID19 and the devastation caused by the floods.

There is good news with the arrival of the first batch of vaccines through COVAX, the global vaccine equity mechanism. The vaccine rollout will help restart the economy, improve access to services and help people rebuild their lives.

The United Nations Country Team in Timor-Leste will continue supporting response to the floods and COVID19 pandemic. We are committed to supporting the Government to address the needs of women, children, the elderly, and those with disabilities who have suffered the most through these crises. Let's work together in the spirit of [#BuildingForwardBetter](#)





## UN AGENCIES SUPPORT RESPONSE IN WAKE OF DEADLY FLOODS

United Nations agencies in Timor-Leste are supporting the Government of Timor-Leste in response efforts as floods and landslides devastate the country. From 29 March to 4 April, heavy rains caused flash floods and landslides in eight municipalities. The capital Dili and the surrounding low-lying areas were the worst affected.

According to the latest figures from the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection 12 of the 13 municipalities are affected. At least 46 people have died (including 10 missing presumed dead). 13,554 people or 2,315 households are displaced in 40 evacuation facilities across Dili municipality.

In support of Government efforts, the UN and humanitarian partners have continued to address the lifesaving multi-sectoral needs of those affected, particularly women and children.

The Rapid Site Assessment conducted on 5/6 April by a joint UN team identified urgent needs in the evacuation centers as being: WASH facilities, food and drinking water, non-food items, and medicine.

Severe damage has impacted critical infrastructure, including roads, bridges and medical centers. Communication networks and electricity were disabled in some of the worst affected areas.

The floods come at a time when the country has seen a surge in COVID-19 cases with Dili municipality in strict lockdown since 9 March. The temporary displacement of people poses a threat to spread of COVID-19 as well as outbreaks of water-borne and vector-borne diseases. This would put a further strain on Timor-Leste's already over-stretched health system.

For further details on UN agencies response please follow the agency links on the [back page](#).





## TIMOR-LESTE LAUNCHES COVID-19 VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

An event on Wednesday 7 April 2021, World Health Day, at the Centro Saude Formosa in central Dili, marked the beginning of Timor-Leste's vaccine roll out.

Prime Minister, H.E Taur Matan Ruak and his spouse, the Archbishop of Dili, the Imam of the Grand Mosque, UN Resident Coordinator, World Health Organization Representative, United Nations Children's Fund Representative, Government officials and representatives of civil society organisations all received their first dose of vaccines at the ceremony.

This is Phase 1 of the vaccination campaign as outlined in the National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan. Timor-Leste received 24,000 doses; the first consignment allocated through the COVAX Facility for 20 per cent of Timor-Leste's population. This phase involves vaccinating all health workers, frontline personnel, those above 60 years of age and those with comorbidities. Phase 2 will cover all persons above 18 years of age.

The launch of the vaccination campaign is the most effective tool in reducing the impact of COVID-19 on communities, of complementing other health protocols, and helping return to normalcy. "By taking the vaccine today, I am showing my confidence in the vaccine and that it is the right choice for our country. I urge all those eligible for the vaccine to do the same to

protect yourself, your family and community."

H.E Dra Odete Maria Freitas Belo, the Minister of Health, appealed to everyone to continue following the COVID-19 preventive measures, including those who have received the vaccine. "No one is safe until everyone is safe. So, please continue to wear the mask, wash your hands with soap and water, practice physical distancing, do not cross borders illegally, and do not believe in rumours and hearsay."

In Timor-Leste, WHO and UNICEF have supported the Ministry of Health in developing the national vaccine deployment plan and accompanying multi-media awareness raising campaign. UNICEF and WHO are also supporting training of health workers in identification and enumeration of priority groups, vaccine transport and storage, vaccine administration and management of any side effects.

The vaccinations are being administered at health posts and immunization posts set up by the Ministry of Health.



# COVAX

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

### UN AGENCIES, GOVT AND PARTNERS PREPARE FOR VACCINE ROLL-OUT

The Ministry of Health (MoH) with assistance from WHO and UNICEF successfully applied for and joined COVAX, ensuring free vaccines for 20% of Timor-Leste's population. The MoH with technical expertise from WHO and logistical help from UNICEF and the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) is advising the Government in preparation for COVID-19 vaccine arrival. MoH, WHO and UNICEF are supporting an awareness campaign to ensure that the people of Timor-Leste are adequately informed about the efficacy and importance of vaccination. To support messaging and identify what additional information is needed, UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO, supported the MoH to conduct an online survey on perceptions of COVID-19 vaccines. The preliminary results show that 98 per cent of the 519 respondents had heard of the COVID-19 vaccine; 57 per cent were willing to take it when it's available in Timor-Leste and another 36 per cent had not decided yet.

### UN, GOVT, AND PARTNERS ENSURE EFFECTIVE VACCINE STORAGE

To strengthen the vaccine cold chain system, UNICEF improved vaccine storage and distribution at national, regional and municipal levels, including building two cold rooms at Servico Autonomo de Medicamentos e Equipamentos de Saude (SAMES) and supporting MOH to conduct training in vaccine storage safety.





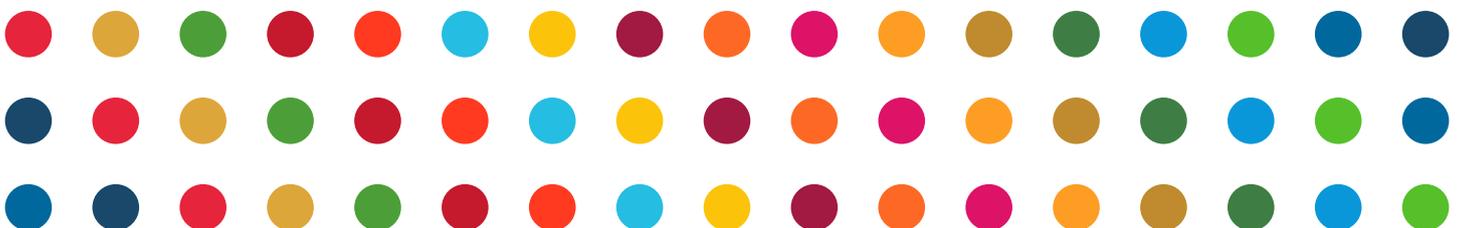
## IMPACT ASSESSMENT LAUNCHED TO PREPARE FOR VACCINE DRIVE

**UN Agencies, General Directorate of Statistics (GDS) and the Ministry for the Coordination of Economic Affairs (MCAE) expand Socio-Economic Impact Assessment.**

UN Women, with funding from the UN Secretary General's COVID-19 Fund, facilitated research to measure the Government's socio-economic support in 12 municipalities and the Special Administrative of RAEOA as part of the UN Timor-Leste's support for the Government's COVID-19 response. A total of 1,418 women from diverse high-risk groups were interviewed and included in 26 focus group discussions. The research found that women with disabilities, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) persons, women whose partners have left them, and widows, may be

excluded from response efforts. The finding will be shared with the government.

United Nations Timor-Leste with technical leads from UNDP and UNFPA, in partnership with GDS and MCAE, have started a second nationwide Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA 2.0). SEIA 2.0 seeks to provide a more nuanced understanding of how different demographics of the population are being affected by the ongoing circumstances. It will also inform what livelihood, healthcare, and other essential services each group need most. SEIA 2.0 will also gather data on the outcomes of the GoTL's short-term economic recovery measures in support of communities and businesses.



## UNDP SUPPORT MCAE IN THE CESTA BÁSICA DISTRIBUTION MONITORING

“Cesta Básica” is part of the Economic Recovery Plan promoted by the Government of Timor-Leste which aims to stimulate the local economy through the circulation of financial resources, creating conditions which increase the income of farmers and agricultural producers, supporting family’s basic needs and improving the diet of Timorese families. This is the first national survey and includes input from several UN Agencies on monitoring food, products and distribution. Companies contracted to support the Cesta Básica distribution process will gather information from around 190 contracted companies.

## LAUNCH OF EU-WHO PARTNERSHIP ON COVID-19 RESPONSE

H.E Minister of Health Dr Odete Maria Freitas Belo, along with the European Union Timor-Leste and WHO launched a partnership to enhance the COVID-19 response and strengthen the health system in Timor-Leste. USD 2.4 million have been committed over 20 months.



## UN AGENCIES STRENGTHEN GOVT’S CAPACITY ON COVID-19 CASE MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE

In Dili, Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares (HNGV), WHO and partners provided training in critical care, shock, sepsis, Arterial Blood Gas (ABGs) as well as ventilation, to prepare doctors to manage severe COVID-19 cases should they arise. Eighteen mid-level doctors and intensive care unit (ICU) nurses were trained.

WHO in collaboration with Maluk Timor and MoH trained health care professionals in the border areas. Thirty health care professionals were trained in Bobonaro and 25 in Batugade.

IOM and WHO are working together to build the capacity of frontline border officials to prevent disease transmission and effectively manage suspected cases at points of entry. MoH continued socialization testing, contact tracing and surveillance in these communities with financial and technical support from WHO.





### MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING

WHO supported MoH and HNGV in conducting a two-day orientation on Mental Health and COVID-19. More than 20 health workers from all thirteen municipalities were trained.

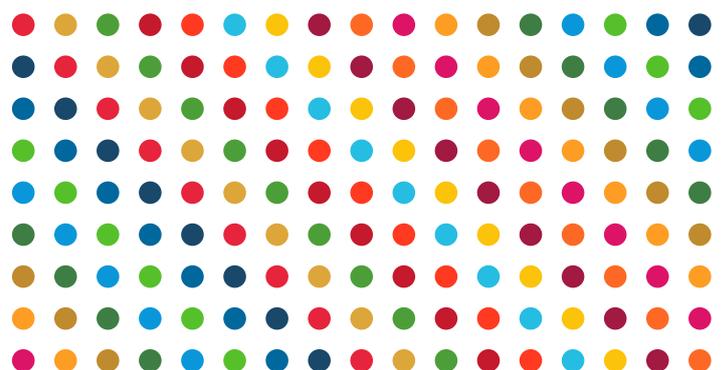
MoH with technical assistance from WHO, and support from St John of God, Maluk Timor and Menzies School of Health Research conducted a five-day refresher training on COVID-19 protocol and infection prevention control. In all, 112 health workers were trained.

UNICEF, with MSSSI, provided a three-day training to 25 caregivers from residential care facilities on child protection, including in emergencies.

### EQUIPMENT FOR FRONT-LINE WORKERS

UNICEF provided 800 individual pieces of medical equipment to help the MoH set up care facilities for patients with severe COVID-19. This equipment included electric hospital beds for intensive care units (ICUs), other hospital beds, ventilators for ICUs, pulse-oximeters, ultraviolet lamps for room sterilisation, infrared thermometers, laryngoscope sets for adults and children, and examination lights. UNICEF also helped SAMES distribute thousands of items of PPE to health facilities in six municipalities so health staff could continue essential health services or respond should there be any cases of COVID-19. As well as upgrading existing facilities in five municipalities.

IOM, with KOICA support, handed over laboratory equipment to the Ministry of Health National Laboratory to increase COVID-19 testing and tracing capacity.





## **WFP EXTENDS LOGISTICS SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S COVID-19 RESPONSE**

As part of the National Crisis Centre's logistics working group, WFP is supporting coordination efforts between the humanitarian community and Government to respond to the needs of local communities that are impacted by local lockdowns resulting from an increase in cases of Covid-19. Efforts are underway to provide Food, WASH and Education materials.

The WFP CO received 15 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) from UNHRD Malaysia to be used to augment emergency warehouse capacity for ministries.

MSUs have been handed over to the Ministry of Health and Civil Protection for disaster response. WFP installed Covid quarantine and isolation center in Dili.

## **WFP WORKS TOWARDS ACHIEVING ZERO HUNGER**

In line with the COVID recovery plan, a meeting between the Ministro Coordenador dos Assuntos Económicos (MCAE) minister, the Resident Coordination Office (RCO) and WFP on the Cesta Básica Programme concluded that WFP would continue providing policy advice and technical support to the Government for the implementation of the Cesta Básica Programme.

WFP provided food assistance to more than 42,000 people that are food insecure. WFP used its logistic expertise to reach the most vulnerable, such as university students who have no means of purchasing food, as well as women, children and those living with disabilities.



## UNDP FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROJECT REACHES MORE THAN 30,000 MOST-AT-RISK PEOPLE.

UNDP, in collaboration with ADB and Government of Japan, helped the Government reach people in the most vulnerable areas of Dili, Baucau, Bobonaro, Covalima and Oecussi. The project was launched in response to Covid-19 restrictions that impacted vulnerable people's sources of income. Using circular economic principles, the project sourced 100% of distributed food products from local farmers and cooperatives to multiply the beneficial stimulus impacts of the project. In total it distributed 280 tons of food and supported over 1300 farmers and farm workers.



## ESSENTIAL PPE PROVIDED TO KEEP HEALTH WORKERS SAFE.

WHO handed over medical supplies to SAMES. In addition to PPEs, 50 portable handheld pulse oximeters, 37 oxygen concentrators, 1000 face shields, 1000 protective goggles, 1000 medical gowns, 100,000 medical masks and 10,000 respirator masks were donated. A fully automated RT-PCR machine, reagents, and other consumables necessary for COVID-19 testing were also provided.



## PRIORITISING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

To ensure infection prevention and control at critical border points and health facilities UNICEF helped set up:

- 189 standalone points for handwashing across the country.
- Rehabilitated and upgraded WASH facilities at 10 critical border locations and constructed five new disability friendly WASH facilities in these locations.
- UNICEF is also currently rehabilitating and upgrading existing water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in 20 community health centres in five municipalities.

## MAINTAINING LIVELIHOODS FOR RURAL TIMORESE DURING COVID-19

ILO's RBSA Rural Road Maintenance Programme is supporting post-COVID economic recovery through European Union and DFAT funded programmes.

Under the initiative:

- 819 workers employed including 360 women and 12 people with disabilities.
- 9,977 workdays created.
- USD 49,884 spent in wages.



## KEEPING COMMUNITIES INFORMED ON COVID-19 PREVENTION

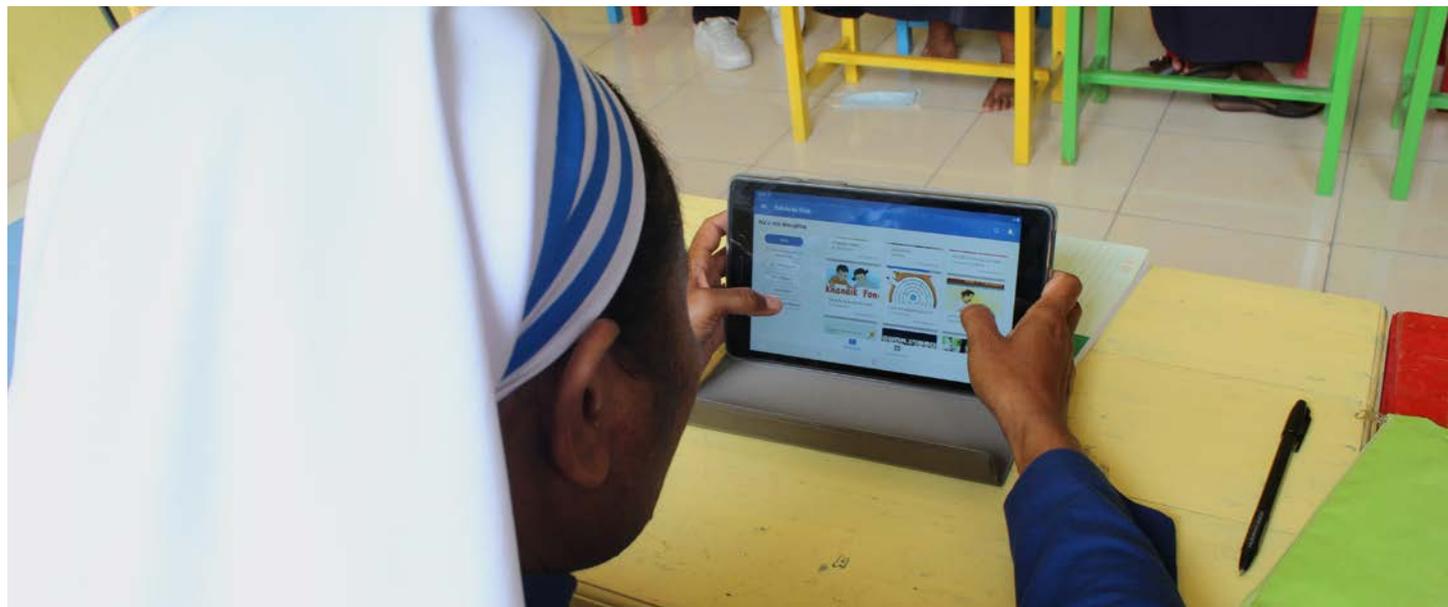
The MoH, UNICEF and WHO continued to support the MoH awareness raising on COVID-19 prevention across the country. This involved messaging on television, community radio, and door-to-door social mobilisation. Also supporting PNTL's vehicle-based awareness raising in aldeias across Dili to reinforce messaging and urge communities to continue practicing COVID-19 prevention methods such as handwashing, wearing masks, physical distancing in public and not gathering in groups. UNICEF and WHO also developed materials in braille and sign language to ensure children and those with disabilities are included in receiving COVID-19 prevention messaging.



- 14 radio messages aired more than 10,000 times on 17 community radio stations over the past year. Radio spots with 14 different messages on COVID-19.
- Two television spots broadcast at prime time on two television stations over the past three months.
- Multiple television spots.
- Door-to-door awareness and distribution of COVID-19 prevention brochures in four municipalities.

## DEVELOPING LIFE SAVING INFORMATION RELATED TO FOOD AND COVID-19

WFP developed messages around food safety, busting myths centred on food and COVID-19, as well as providing information for Pregnant and Nursing mothers in English and Tetum.



## SUPPORTING CONTINUED LEARNING FOR CHILDREN

UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to ensure learning in safe environments continues during the COVID-19 crisis.

This involved providing:

- 320,000 washable and reusable masks.
  - 50,000 hygiene items such as soaps, cleaning liquids and cleaning equipment.
  - 155 tablet computers.
  - Tanks and water points for group handwashing stations in 91 schools.
  - A small grant scheme for water supply provision in 239 schools.
  - Water tanks to 218 schools in 13 municipalities.
- Additional distribution will continue over the coming weeks.



## UN'S HUMANITARIAN AIRLIFT CONTINUES

WFP's aviation services have been crucial in the country's overall COVID19 response. Since June 2020 WFP has operated 19 charter flights between Dili and Kuala Lumpur, transporting 1,354 passengers and 14.5 metric tonnes of medical and emergency supplies on behalf of WHO and the international community. 83 organisations have used the service.





## NUTRITION, FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

### WFP'S INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE NUTRITION FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

WFP started installation of blending machinery with engineers from Shanghai Constructions in February 2021 in Tibar to boost local production of fortified rice. WFP is supporting drafting for the Food Fortification Decree Law officially requested by the Ministry of Tourism Trade and Industry (MTCI). It will be presented to the Council of Ministries after further consultations. WFP collaborated with Care International to print the information on the importance of food fortification in a local magazine called "LAFAEK" that will be distributed to all schools in Timor-Leste in May 2021.

WFP conducted a cash-based transfer (CBT) market retail assessment in Ermera to gather primary data for assessing the feasibility of CBT programmes to cover essential needs in the municipalities of Timor-Leste based on consumption patterns, as well as to assess retailers' capacity to satisfy a growing demand.



WFP continues to follow up and organise advocacy meetings with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation on Moderate Acute Malnutrition treatment intervention and supply chain management.

Together with other NGOs, WFP provided technical support to the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport to prioritise a nutrition-sensitive programme under leadership of the SUN Timor Leste. Focal points are based on SGD2 and consolidating the national action plan for nutrition and food security.

WFP in collaboration with the MoH finalized and broadcasted a new video on anaemia in the local media as part of the SBCC activity.



## WFP HANDS OVER EQUIPMENT TO BOOST LOCAL AGRICULTURE

WFP handed over ICT equipment to the National Directorate of Irrigation and Water Management. Investing in irrigation schemes strengthens the nation's food systems by boosting local agricultural production.

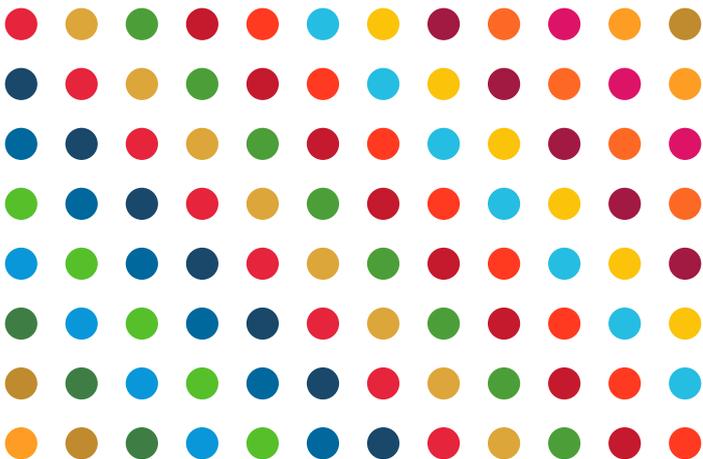
## UNICEF RAISES AWARENESS OF HEALTH AND NUTRITION

UNICEF is developing a 'household sweep' campaign to reach families across Timor-Leste where poor nutrition and health are a critical issue. The sweep includes Vitamin A provision, deworming, distribution of micronutrient powder and treatment of acute malnutrition.



## UNDP ENSURES FOOD BASKETS INCLUDE LOCAL PRODUCE.

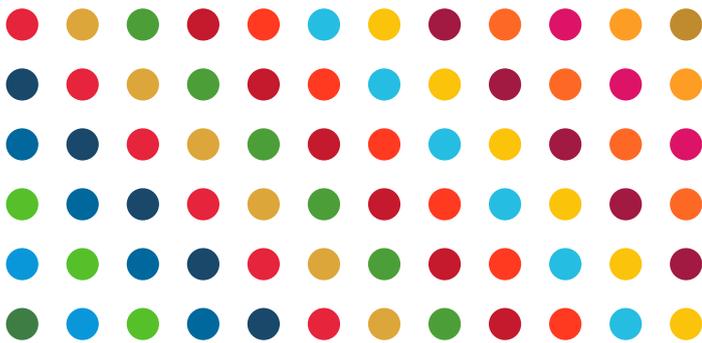
UNDP, with Japan-Gov and ADB, ensured food distribution baskets include locally produced nutritious food types. This includes working with local food champions Agora Food Studios to ensure they are not just nutritious but tasty too.



## SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

### UNCTAD SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT ON DIGITALISATION

UNCTAD/ASYCUDA Programme are digitising and improving trade opportunities in Timor-Leste, working together with TradeInvest Timor-Leste they launched a National Single window platform to make investment in Timor-Leste simpler and easier.



### UNDP WORKS WITH MTCI AND BNCTL TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS THROUGH LOAN GUARANTEE SCHEME

UNDP and UNCDF are supporting the Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry (MTCI) and National Commercial Bank of Timor-Leste (BNCTL) to establish a loan guarantee facility (LGF) based on a comprehensive assessment of the demand and supply aspects of access to finance. This facility de-risks loans (guarantees for collaterals) and lowers the interest rate to 3% (from the weighted average lending rate of 12%) for small businesses, social enterprises and start-ups that otherwise would not qualify for bank loans.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING OUTCOMES AND SKILLS

UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and implementing partners to continue supporting community pre-schools in Ermera and Viqueque municipalities to help 3251 (1690 boys and 1561 girls) children prepare for primary schools and enrol at the right age and prevent repetition of grade 1. UNICEF is also helping train teachers on ICT in four schools, and student council members in seven schools to support the improvement of the quality of basic education services through a child-friendly approach and use of ICT; and working with PHD for the adoption of the child functional screening tool; and working with MoEYS to develop digital learning tools for distance learning and the review and development of alternative learning for children, including

out of school children. UNICEF is also working in partnership with PHD and the MoEYS to develop 'Child Functioning Screening Tools' to help community preschool facilitators provide better education. Training of 110 facilitators in Ermera and 88 in Viqueque has also been completed.

### WFP SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

WFP completed the installation of water supplies in two schools and began the construction of kitchens in another two schools. They also conducted nutrition sensitisation in another four schools. Under the pilot project WFP are exploring the possibility of linking local farmers to the Home-Grown School Feeding programme. WFP continued reviewing the school feeding manual with the MoEYS, MoH, and other stakeholders to present it to Director General of both ministries.

### DESPITE THE CHALLENGES OF COVID-19, IMMUNISATION FOR OTHER LIFE-THREATENING DISEASES CONTINUES

MOH with the support of WHO, KOICA and other partners commenced a Transmission Assessment Survey for lymphatic filariasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, yaws, and scabies. The information will be used to further inform the control and elimination strategy.

The Ministry also introduced Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV) into the National Expanded Immunization Programme with GAVI. As well as, with support of WHO, launching the second phase of Hepatitis B and C vaccinations.

### MAINTAINING ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND PREVENTING POTENTIAL DISEASE OUTBREAKS

MoH, with the support from WHO, continues to provide holistic support to the MoH in maintaining essential health services. This includes maintaining an adequate blood supply necessary for health emergencies. To this end, WHO handed over the necessary reagents to the National Blood Bank.

#### Other initiatives include:

- Midwifery training by UNFPA and Burnet Institute.
- Installation of WHO supported open-air gyms in Ermera and Dili municipalities; one in Ermera and five in Dili.
- 43 cataract surgeries with support from RACS East Timor Eye Programme and WHO in Manatuto, Baucau and Ainaro.

UNICEF and UNFPA provided technical support to the Ministry of Health in developing a perinatal death review system and are working with the MOH to integrate perinatal death review into the Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR) tool. The training underscores the continuity of essential health services during COVID-19 response which includes routine immunisation, outreach services, emergency referral pathway and emergency obstetric and new-born care. It also helps train healthcare personnel to provide essential health services and care to mothers and children who may be affected by COVID-19.

### WHO-MOH NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS (TB) PROGRAMME: FIRST EVER DRUG RESISTANCE SURVEY (DRS) CONDUCTED

WHO supported the MoH in conducting a nationwide exercise to establish a digital DRS database to monitor drug resistance to TB, assessing drug resistance among new and previously treated patients. Following these findings 115 health professionals were trained in the revised infection management guidelines for TB treatment.

### DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICE LEADS TIMOR-LESTE DELEGATION

DR ODETE MARIA VIEGAS LED THE TIMOR-LESTE DELEGATION IN THE 73RD WHO SOUTH EAST ASIA REGIONAL COMMITTEE (RC) MEETING.

This year's meeting focused on measures to contain the outbreak of COVID-19 whilst maintaining essential health services and how to manage the transition to a 'new normal'.





## ACCOUNTABLE, INCLUSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES

### TECHNOLOGY FOR INCREASED TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

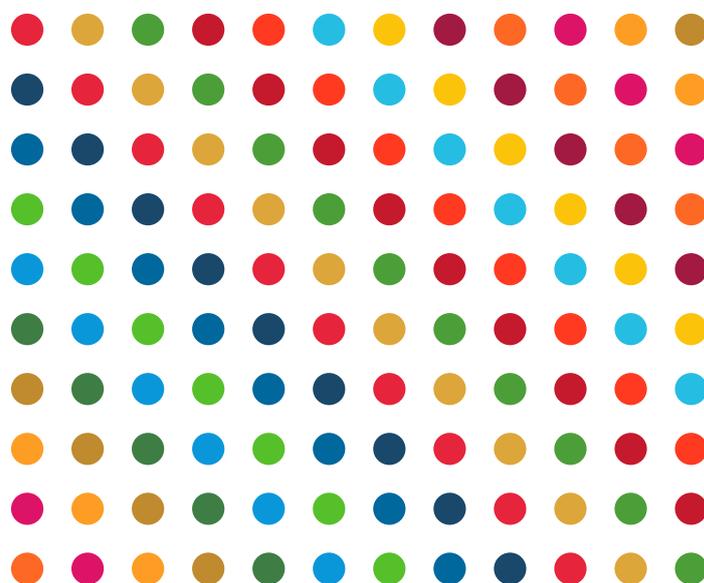
UNDP's Parliament Project encourages the use of technology to improve communication between the National Parliament and its citizens. This includes Tetum language democracy and governance themed WhatsApp stickers to encourage youth participation and development of a 'People's Parliament' mobile app to help improve public understanding of, and access to, parliamentary decision making processes.

UNDP and Facebook held a half-day training for journalists and editors. During the session over 40 participants learned about best practices for journalists on Facebook, and the social media platform's safety and misinformation policy, better equipping them to provide accurate information for people in Timor-Leste.

UN Women Timor-Leste, funded by DFAT, provided 44 young people with 2 months digital literacy training. The activity aimed to empower youth leaders to counter hate speech and stigma in their communities, while promoting social cohesion and gender equality on online platforms.

### UN TIMOR-LESTE CONDUCTS COVID-19 IMPACT STUDY ON RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The COVID-19 pandemic has added additional obstacles and challenges for persons with disabilities (PwD) in Timor-Leste to access their rights. Respondents stated that despite efforts of the Government and development partners, most of the COVID response measures (particularly on accessing information, education and benefit packages) were designed without considering the special needs of this group. The study outcomes will now be discussed in more detail with relevant ministries.



## STRENGTHENING MEDIA SELF-REGULATORY MECHANISMS IN TIMOR-LESTE

Building the capacity of the Timor-Leste Press Council to foster a positive environment for sustainable, free, independent and professional media in the country is crucial to a democratic society. Since 2018 UNESCO has provided practical journalism training in photography, video-audio production, website management and news writing. The journalism students are trained in issues of self-regulation of the media including code of ethics and quality journalism. 372 journalism students, 194 female and 178 male, have received training.



## GOVERNMENT AND UNICEF STUDY THE IMPACT OF COVID19 ON ADOLESCENTS

UNICEF and the Commission on the Rights of the Child conducted an online survey on the impact COVID-19 on adolescents and youth and organized a panel discussion to promote dialogue between youth and decision-makers on the findings and recommendations. It showed that over 80 per cent of respondents felt the pandemic had changed their lives. Most respondents selected 'lower access to education' as the biggest change due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also said that many took action to support communities, and that they had a say in how the government subsidies were spent by their families. They also provided suggestions on how policy makers could help reimagine a better future for adolescents and youth in Timor-Leste. The survey results can be found at [Adolescent and Youth Voices Covid-19 Timor-Leste](#)

UNICEF also supported MSSI in delivering two workshops for 42 social welfare workers. The training aimed to increase the skills of those working with children and families and to build stronger professional collaboration between social welfare teams.

## IOM SUPPORTS THE GOVT ON BORDER SECURITY

IOM with Ministry of Interior and migration service met with the EU Delegation, Australia, US, Portugal, New Zealand and Indonesia, Director-General of Migration Service, UPF Commander, and senior representatives from relevant ministries to evaluate the deployment of a Border Management Information System that allows States to collect, process, store and analyse traveller information. This is to meet the international and regional standards as Timor-Leste moves towards further integration with its ASEAN neighbours.

## UN WOMEN LAUNCHES NATIONAL FORUM TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS UNDER EU-UN SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE

UN Women, through the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, supported Rede Feto and its partner World Vision in launching a National Forum to encourage collaboration and solidarity amongst groups working to address violence against women and girls.

## TOGETHER FOR EQUALITY: UN AGENCIES LAUNCH USD 7.7 MILLION KOICA-FUNDED PROJECTS

UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA and IOM, and with the State Secretariat for Equality and Inclusion (SEII), with funding from KOICA, launched a four-year USD 7.7 million project titled “Together for Equality: Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence in Timor-Leste.”

The Project will seek to prevent GBV by supporting government institutions to expand their support services to reach more survivors of violence and encourage others to seek support.



## UNDP LAUNCHES PILOT PROJECT ON SOCIAL-COHESION

UNDP has launched a pilot initiative to monitor a potential rise of social disharmony and to promote social cohesion at the community level.

14 youth volunteers, known as Joven ba Mudansa, will be trained and mentored in social cohesion to become leaders in their communities.

The project’s activities (subject to Covid-19 restrictions) include friendship/mentoring relationships between adolescents and adults; working with taxi drives to prevent of sexual harassment on public transport and producing media messages to counter negative relationship stereotypes and norms.



# SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

## LEARNING TO DESIGN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT IN MIND.

10 Timorese youth groups learnt about environmentally conscious design at the Green Building Design Challenge Boot Camp 2020. The initiative was lauded by Mr. Roger Belo, DG of Public Service, "Thanks to UNDP for holding & funding this activity... modern problems need modern solutions that are locally based, green, & environmentally friendly. The young engineers are taking up the challenge of green building design."

## LEARNING THE BENEFITS OF MANGROVE CULTIVATION ON ATAURO.

The UNDP's Mangrove Project and MAF distributed 575 children's story books and 60 diaries/booklets to schools in Biqueli on Atauro Island. The books contained information about the importance of mangrove conservation for the environment. "This activity really helped our students to understand the importance of mangroves... We will implement our program and work closely with UNDP to conserve & protect mangrove areas." said the Director of EBC Mr. João dos Reis.

## WATER MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE TO BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENCE.

UNICEF is working on developing initiatives to promote sustainable management of natural resources and resilience to climate change. This work includes reforestation of four rural water systems.



# SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS



**FAO:**

<https://www.facebook.com/UNFAO>



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**UNICEF:**

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**UN WOMEN:**

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**WFP:**

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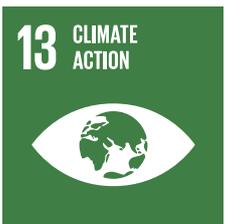
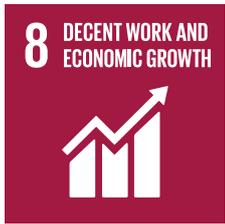
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## UNITED NATIONS HOUSE

CAICOLI STREET, PO BOX 558, DILI, TIMOR-LESTE

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